

### REMARKS

Claims 16, 17 and 23 remain in the application. Claims 1-15 and 18-22 have been cancelled. Claim 23 has been added. Claims 16 and 17 have been amended.

We have made certain amendments to independent claim 16 to emphasize the claimed characteristic of the invention, specifically that the subject matter of this application relates to what has been termed a "suite of water control plumbing fixtures," or what is now termed a "plurality of independent and separate water control plumbing fixtures," each of which has a water control function different from another. This is clearly supported by the specification in that there is both a water faucet and a shower arm with a related shower head, clearly two water control plumbing fixtures which have different functions and which are independent and separate from each other.

In reviewing the art relied upon by the Examiner in his §102 rejection of claims 16 and 17, it is clear that all of the art, with the potential exception of Cool 5,813,431, only shows a single, one function water control plumbing product. In fact, each of these patents relates to a faucet and a means for changing various aspects of the faucet. Although Allgood 3,609,774 is not strictly a faucet, it is a tub/shower control in which there is a tub spout and a control for regulating water through the tub spout, but, nevertheless, all of these elements are mounted in a single package and thus, for all practical purposes, are a single water control plumbing fixture.

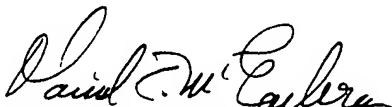
As indicated above, the only art which may be potentially considered different is Cool, which shows both a tub spout and a shower head. However, there is no indication in Cool as to how either the tub spout or the shower head is mounted, nor that they have a

common decorative theme, nor is there any substantive disclosure in this patent which would relate to the other limitations of independent claim 16. The thrust of Cool is in the mounting plate which has a plurality of spaced barbs adjacent its periphery, a subject which we submit is essentially irrelevant to what is claimed herein.

As stated above, the essence of the invention claimed in the present application is a plurality of modular plumbing fixtures, different in function, but having a common decorative theme in which the decorative and exposed portion of the fixture may be easily removed and replaced without affecting the underlying waterway connections. This enables the user to in effect change the decor of a suite or plurality of plumbing products, all in the same room, but without affecting any of the water supply connections to these products. This is a subject that is simply not shown in any of the art of record. We have made every effort to define the subject matter in claim 16, but would welcome suggestions from the Examiner if he does not believe that the claims in their present form are allowable over the art specified in the §102 rejection.

A reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the claims:**

Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

16. (Twice amended) (Amended) A plurality of independent and separate water control plumbing fixtures, each having a water control function different from another and  
each ~~suite of water control plumbing fixtures~~ having a common decorative theme, each fixture for mounting on a support, which support has a normally visible surface and a normally non-visible surface, and wherein each fixture has water supply connections on the normally non-visible surface and has a functional and decorative element on the normally visible surface, and wherein the functional and decorative element of all such fixtures may be removed and replaced from the fixture from the visible surface without affecting the water supply connections on the normally non-visible surface,

each fixture including a waterway attached to the water supply connections, each waterway extending into its respective functional and decorative element to supply water thereto, and fastening means mounted on each waterway on the visible surface, each fastening means including means for attaching and removing its respective decorative and functional element from only the visible surface of the support.

Claim 17 has been amended as follows:

17. (Amended) The plurality ~~suite~~ of water control plumbing fixtures of claim 16 wherein one of said functional and decorative elements is a faucet spout.